

THE
CONSTITUTION

OF THE


GRAND LODGE

OF

NORTH-CAROLINA.


HALIFAX:
PRINTED BY BROTHER A. HODGE.

—
1798.



CONSTITUTION, &c.

WE the Members of the several Lodges in the State of North-Carolina, to establish order and uniformity, to promote love and charity among Masons, and diffuse the principles of benevolence and the advantages of Masonry, do ordain and establish this CONSTITUTION for the Grand Lodge in this State.



ARTICLE I.

SECTION 1. That the Grand Lodge shall consist of a Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Grand Senior and Grand Junior Wardens, Grand Treasurer, Grand Secretary, Grand Senior and Grand Junior Deacons, and the Masters and Wardens for the time being of the several lodges within this state, or representative or representatives specially appointed by the Lodge for that purpose; who shall be considered as their proxy or proxies; and the past Grand Officers of the Grand Lodge, that is to say, a past Grand Master, past Deputy Grand Master, past Grand Senior and Junior Wardens, Grand Treasurer and Grand Secretary. And the said enumerated officers and persons shall be the only members and voters of the Grand Lodge, except as herein after provided in the 5th section of the 10th article.—The Master and Wardens of every Lodge are the representatives thereof in the Grand Lodge,

Lodge, or their proxy or proxies constituted as
afore said.

SEC. 2. In all cases where special representatives shall not be appointed by any subordinate Lodge; and the Master and Wardens of any Lodge, cannot personally attend the Grand Lodge, they shall have the privilege of constituting a proxy; and such proxy shall be a Master Mason, and a member of some Lodge under this jurisdiction; and he or they shall be entitled to the same number of votes as his or their constituent or constituents.



ARTICLE II.

SECTION 1. A Grand Master shall be annually chosen, to wit, at the annual communication, and no person shall be eligible for the office more than three years successively.

SEC. 2. In the election of a Grand Master, a ballot at large shall be taken, (every voter writing the name of the candidate he thinks best qualified) and the brother who has two thirds of the votes present, shall be declared Grand Master elect, and installed in due form, according to ancient usage.

SEC. 3. In case of sickness, or necessary absence, the Grand Master, or any other Grand Officer, may be installed by proxy, but whoever represents them must have sustained the office to which such absent officers is to be installed, or such office as might have entitled him to fill the chair in the absence of the Grand Master.

SEC.

SEC. 4. The Grand Master shall appoint and commission his Deputy, under the seal of the Grand Lodge, and he shall appoint and declare the Grand Deacons, the Grand Stewart, the Grand Marshall, Grand Toiler and Grand Sword Bearer ; which appointments shall be entered on the minutes of the Grand Lodge. And in case any other office shall become vacant by death, resignation or otherwise, the Grand Master for the time shall fill such vacancy by his nomination.

SEC. 5. The Grand Master shall, when present, indispenfably fill the chair, in his absence the Deputy Grand Master, in the absence of both the Senior Grand Warden, in the absence of these the Junior Grand Warden, and in case of the absence of all these officers the oldest Grand Officer in the Lodge is to fill the chair. And that the Grand Lodge may always appear in due form, the presiding officer shall wear the jewel of the Grand Master, and all others the jewels of the officers they respectively represent.

SEC. 6. No Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, or Grand Warden shall, during his continuance in office, be Master or Warden to, or representative of a particular Lodge ; and no brother shall be eligible for either of the said offices, who has not passed the chair of some regular Lodge, to be made known by proper vouchers.

SEC. 7. The Grand Master, with his Deputy, Grand Wardens, Treasurer, or Secretary shall, if convenient, during his Mastership, visit the several Lodges under his jurisdiction, and shall examine their records and proceedings, and see that no innovation be committed in any of them, first giving
such

such Lodges timely notice of his approach. But in case it should not be convenient for the Grand Master, or his Officers to attend as herein required, then and in that case the Grand Master is authorised to appoint a skilful and confidential brother for this purpose.

SEC. 8. The Grand Master has full right and authority to preside in every Lodge under his jurisdiction, with the Master of the Lodge on his left hand, and to summon his Grand Wardens, Treasurer and Secretary to attend him, who are to act in their several capacities whenever the Grand Master takes the chair.

SEC. 9. The Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master and Grand Wardens, shall severally, at the time of their installation make the following declaration:—"I solemnly promise upon the honour of a
"Mason, that in the office of _____ I will,
"according to the best of my abilities, strictly
"comply with the laws and regulations of this
"Grand Lodge and all other ancient masonic us-
"ages."

SEC. 10. That the Grand Master shall have power to grant dispensations upon proper petition. That the brethren to whom such dispensation shall be granted, make application to the Grand Lodge at the next annual communication for a charter. And if such application shall not be made, or such charter not granted by the Grand Lodge, the Lodge erected by such dispensation shall be deemed dissolved.

ARTICLE

ARTICLE III.

The Grand Wardens shall be chosen annually by a majority of written votes, and must have passed the chair in some regular Lodge.



ARTICLE IV.

SEC. 1. The Grand Treasurer shall be chosen annually by a majority of written votes, and must have passed the chair.

SEC. 2. He must be a brother of good worldly substance, and to him shall be committed the monies belonging to the Grand Lodge. He shall always keep a fair record of his accounts and transactions, and the uses to which the monies are appropriated; and shall lay the same, when required, before the Grand Lodge, and account for the monies as may be directed.



ARTICLE V.

SEC. 1. The Grand Secretary shall be chosen annually by a majority of written votes.

SEC. 2. He must be a brother who can write a fair legible hand; and shall keep accurate records of all the transactions of the Grand Lodge. He shall present all the votes and orders of the Grand Lodge, after they are entered, to the Grand Master for his approbation and signature. He shall issue summonses as the Grand Master may direct, and shall give a seasonable notice in at least one public newspaper of every stated meeting of the Grand Lodge

Lodge. And he shall be rewarded for his services from time to time as the Grand Lodge may direct.

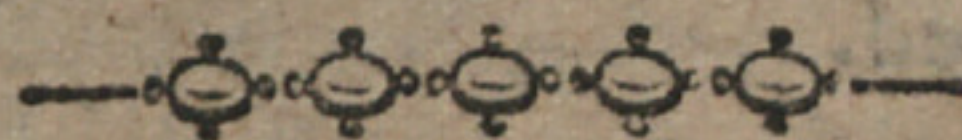


ARTICLE VI.

SEC. 1. The Grand Deacons, Grand Stewarts, Grand Marshall, and Grand Sword Bearer must be Master Masons.

SEC. 2. The Grand Stewarts shall attend in preparing the feast on a regular summons for that purpose, and they shall always see that the tables are regularly and masonically spread.

SEC. 3. The Grand Marshall shall attend the Grand Feast, and assist the Grand Master in the order and arrangement of the day; and the Grand Sword Bearer shall attend on all public occasions.



ARTICLE VII.

The Grand Toiler shall attend every call of the Grand Master, and be present at every Grand Lodge, for which services he shall be rewarded from time to time according to his merit.



ARTICLE VIII.

SEC. 1. A Grand Lodge shall be held at least once in every year, at such time and place as the Grand Lodge shall appoint; and when no such appointment shall be made, then at such time and place as the most worshipful shall appoint. And
special

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special Grand Lodges shall be held as the Grand Master shall appoint.

SEC. 2. In the adoption of this Constitution, and all amendments hereafter made, and in the election of officers, the votes shall be taken according to the rights of the several Lodges, and the members of the Grand Lodge, that is to say, every Lodge present by its representatives, shall be entitled to three votes, whether represented by one or more brethren; and every member of the Grand Lodge otherwise entitled than by being a representative of a particular Lodge, shall have one vote. All other matters in Grand Lodge shall be determined by a majority of the votes of the members present, and the brother in the chair shall have the casting vote.

SEC. 3. The Grand Lodge shall have power, by charter, under their seal in form heretofore used, to constitute new Lodges, to establish an uniform mode of working in all the Lodges within this state, and superintend and regulate the general police of Masonry according to the ancient usages and customs of Masons, carefully regarding the old land marks, which are in no account to be removed or defaced.

SEC. 4. The Grand Lodge, on granting a charter to a newly constituted Lodge, may demand such reasonable fees as they may establish by law.

SEC. 5. The Grand Lodge shall have power to call upon the several Lodges for the annual and customary dues.

SEC. 6. The Grand Lodge shall have power to establish an uniform rule as to the sums to be paid

in the several Lodges within the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge, for entering, passing and raising a brother.

SEC. 7. The Grand Lodge shall have power to make such laws for their own government as they shall think proper.



ARTICLE IX.

SEC. 1. No vote of the Grand Lodge shall be reconsidered by a less number of members than were present at the passing of the same.

SEC. 2. No brother shall be admitted into the Grand Lodge but such as are members, excepting petitioners and witnesses: Provided that brethren properly entitled by their grade in Masonry, may, on motion, be admitted as visitors. In neither of which cases shall they be admitted to vote.

SEC. 3. No new charter shall be granted, but upon the petition of at least five known and approved Master Masons; nor shall a new warrant issue to any number of Masons residing within less than ten miles of the usual place of meeting of any regular established Lodge, unless by special dispensation of the Grand Lodge, and the petition shall contain the causes which render it expedient that such charter should be granted, with the nomination of the Master and Wardens, and the petition shall be approved by some regular constituted Lodge in the vicinity of the petitioners.

ARTICLE

ARTICLE X.

SEC. 1. Every Lodge under this jurisdiction shall once every year transmit to the Grand Lodge the names of their officers, and also the names of the brothers who have been made Masons, passed fellow-crafts, and raised to the sublime degree of Master Masons, in order that the same may be duly noticed in the Grand Lodge.

SEC. 2. Upon the demise of any Lodge within the jurisdiction of this Grand Lodge, the last Secretary and Treasurer of said Lodge shall within six months afterwards surrender to the Grand Secretary the books, papers, jewels, funds and furniture of said Lodge.

SEC. 3. The Grand Wardens and Grand Secretary shall make all necessary preparations for every Grand Feast, and they shall be assisted by the Grand Stewards, or some general undertaker.

SEC. 4. Every brother present at a Grand Feast shall be controuled by the Grand Master in every thing that pertains to the decency and decorum of his conduct.

SEC. 5. Every brother who is an existing member of the Grand Lodge of North-Carolina, at the time of the adoption of the present constitution, shall continue to be a member of the same, he paying up his dues as prescribed by the laws of this Grand Lodge.

SEC. 6. No amendment to this constitution shall be adopted by the Grand Lodge, until the same, after being proposed in writing to the Grand Lodge,
and

and thereby concurred with, shall be submitted to the consideration of all the individual Lodges, and adopted by at least two thirds of all the said Lodges.

W. R. DAVIE, G. M.

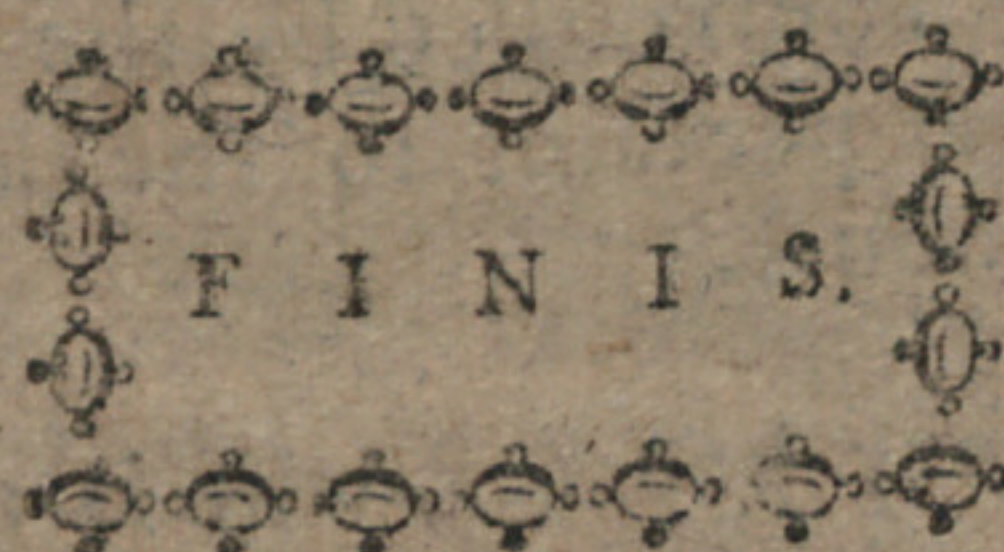
J. GLASGOW, D. G. M.

ROB. WILLIAMS, jun. G. S.

} Committee appointed to form this Constitution.

An Extract from the Records,

(TEST) ROB. WILLIAMS, jun. Grand Secretary.



*Oratified and confirmed in
Grand Lodge the 7th of December
A5797 AD 1797
Test Rob Williams Jun
Grand Secretary*